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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,388	07/29/2003	Kouichi Tanimoto	500.42984X00	3951

24956 7590 10/02/2007
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EXAMINER

PEARSON, DAVID J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2137

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/02/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/628,388

Applicant(s)

TANIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

David J. Pearson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. Claims 1, 4-5 and 11 have been amended. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-14 have been examined.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 4-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 4-5 depend on the now canceled claim 2. Examiner believes these claims should depend on independent claim 1 which was amended to include the subject matter of claim 2 and will treat the claims as such for the remainder of the Office Action.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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4. Claims 1 and 3-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazaki et al (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0023221), and further in view of Haze (U.S. Patent 5,872,638).

For claim 1, Miyazaki et al. teach a method of publishing signature log entries having information about signatures generated by user's side apparatus, **wherein the method is implemented on a publication agency's side apparatus, the method comprising:**

Receiving and publishing the user's signature log entries generated by the user's side apparatus as a user's signature log entry publication step (note paragraph [0061]);

Notifying the users of having published the user's signature log entries as a user's signature log entry publication notifying step (note paragraph [0061]);

Generating a publication agency's signature log entry by using the received user's signature log entries, and updating a signature log having the publication agency's signature log entry produced and registered in past times as a signature log updating step (note paragraph [0060]);

Publishing the generated publication agency's signature log entry as a publication agency's signature log entry publication step (note paragraph [0060]); and

Notifying the users of having published the publication agency's signature log entry as a publication agency's signature log entry publication notifying step (note paragraph [0060]),

Wherein said signature log updating step further comprises:

Generating the publication agency's signature log entry on the basis of the received user's signature log entries and a plurality of other signature log entries, and recording it in a signature log file as a signature log entry generating step (note paragraph [0060]); and

Recording information of the users and information of the received user's signature log entries in a user information file as a user information file-updating step (note paragraphs [0045] and [0066]),

Wherein said user signature log entries have been produced either at the time of transmission (note paragraph [0052]), at the time of reception (note paragraph [0052]) or at the time of publication (note paragraph [0061]), respectively.

Miyazaki et al. differ from the claimed invention in that they fail to teach:

Wherein said user information file includes a type indication.

Haze teaches:

Wherein said user information file includes a type indication (note FIG. 1, Transmission Type).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the log file with various time stamps of Miyazaki et al. with the log file type indicator of Haze. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to combine Miyazaki et al. and Haze because it would

improve the validation process by allowing the server to identify when the time in the Timestamp field was taken.

For claim 3, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 1, wherein the user's signature log entry publishing step has a step of acquiring a time-stamp to assure the publication date and time of the user's signature log entry as a time-stamp acquiring step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 4, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 1, wherein the signature log entry generating step uses, in the user's signature log entries, signature algorithm identification information, signature numbers peculiar to the signature log entries, hash values for the previous signature log entries to validate a chain, and signature numbers and hash values for the received user's signature log entries to generate the publication agency's signature log entry, and adds the generated publication agency's signature log entry to the signature log (note paragraph [0053]).

For claim 5, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 1, wherein the user information file updating step generates data of a signature number attached to the publication agency's signature log entry, a reception code indicating that the corresponding publication **agency's** signature log entry is generated according to the reception of the user's signature log entries, partner information indicative of senders who transmitted the user's signature log entries, signature numbers attached to

the received user's signature log entries, and the received user's signature log entries, and adds it to the user information file (note paragraph [0066]).

For claim 6, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 1, wherein the user's signature log entry publication notifying step on the publication agency's side apparatus includes the steps of

Generating a publication notice to notify the user's on the user's side apparatus of having published as a publication notice generating step (note paragraph [0061]),

Generating a signature from the generated publication notice and the previous signature log entries of the signature log, and adding it to the publication notice as a signature generating step (note paragraph [0060]),

Recording the generated signature information on the signature log as a signature log updating step (note paragraph [0060]),

Recording information of the users in the user information file as a user information file updating step (note paragraph [0045]), and

Transmitting the generated publication notice to the users as a transmitting step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 7, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 6, wherein the publication notice generating step generates the publication notice on the basis of

The message for notifying the users of having published (note paragraph [0061]),

The published signature log entries (note paragraph [0060]), and

The time-stamp indicative of the publication date and time (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 8, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 6, wherein the signature log updating step generates the signature log entries including

Signature algorithm identification information (note paragraph [0053]),

Signature numbers attached to the inherent signature log entries (note paragraph [0053]),

Hash values for the previous signature log entries to use in validating the chain (note paragraph [0053]),

Hash values for the signature-generated messages (note paragraph [0053]), and

The generated signatures, and adds them to the signature log (note paragraph [0053]).

For claim 9, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 6, wherein the user information file updating step adds, to the user information file, information of

The signature numbers associated with the signature log entries (note paragraph [0053]),

A code indicating that the corresponding publication agency's signature log entry was produced when the signature was generated (note paragraph [0054]), and

Partner information indicative of the users to whom the publication notice is sent (note paragraph [0045]).

For claim 10, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 6, wherein the publication agency's signature log entry publishing step publishes part of the signature log updated on the basis of the publication notice generating step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 11, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 1, wherein the publication agency's signature log entry publication notifying step includes the steps of

Searching for the users to be notified from the user information file as an opponent sender searching step (note paragraph [0059]),

Searching for the log to be sent from the user information file as a transmission log range acquiring step (note paragraph [0070]),

Notifying of having published the publication agency's signature log entry as a publication notice generating step (note paragraph [0061]),

Generating a signature from the generated publication notice and the signature log entries of the previous signatures as a signature generating step (note paragraph [0060]),

Recording the user information to be notified in the user information file as a user information file updating step (note paragraph [0045]), and

Transmitting the generated publication notice to the users as a transmission step (note paragraph [0061]).

For claim 12, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 11, wherein the publication notice generating step generates the publication notice on the basis of

The message for notifying the user of having published the publication agency's signature log entry (note paragraph [0061]),

The published signature log entry (note paragraph [0060]), and

The signature log of a range to be transmitted (note paragraph [0070]).

For claim 13, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 11, wherein the user information file updating step adds, to the user information file, the information of

The signature number attached to the publication agency's signature log entry (note paragraph [0053]),

The code indicating that the corresponding publication agency's signature log entry was produced when the publication agency's log entry publication has been notified (note paragraph [0054]),

The partner information indicative of the users to whom the publication notice is to be sent (note paragraph [0059]), and

The information about a range of log to be transmitted (note paragraph [0070]).

For claim 14, the combination of Miyazaki et al. and Haze teaches claim 1, wherein the user's side apparatus has the user information file that has recorded therein the information about the transmitted-side or receiving-side opponent in association with the user's signature log entries or publication agency's signature log entry transmitted or received by the user's side apparatus (note paragraph [0059]).

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Pearson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0711. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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